

We claim:

1. A method for automatically updating a non-emergency telephone number stored in a wireless handset comprising the steps of:

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determining a previous non-emergency telephone number corresponding with a prior location of the wireless handset;

10 storing the previous non-emergency telephone number in a record associated with the wireless handset in a network database;

determining a current location of the wireless handset;

15 determining a first non-emergency telephone number corresponding to the current location where the first non-emergency telephone number is to be used by wireless handsets at the current location to seek non-emergency assistance;

20 comparing the first non-emergency telephone number and the previous non-emergency telephone number;

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if the first non-emergency telephone number is different than the previous non-emergency telephone number, transmitting a message containing the first non-emergency telephone number to the wireless handset where the message is a command for the wireless handset to store in its memory the first non-emergency instead of the previous non-emergency telephone number for access by a user of the wireless handset.

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2. The method according to claim 1 wherein the step of determining the corresponding first non-emergency telephone number comprises accessing a database based on the current location of the wireless handset where the database stores non-emergency telephone numbers for different locations.

3. A method for automatically updating a non-emergency telephone number stored in a wireless handset comprising the steps of:

determining a prior location of the wireless handset;

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determining a current location of the wireless handset;

if the current location is different from the prior location:

10 determining a non-emergency telephone number to be employed by a user of the wireless handset while at the current location; and

15 transmitting a message containing the non-emergency telephone number to the wireless handset where the message is a command for the wireless handset to store in memory the non-emergency instead of a previous non-emergency telephone number for access by a user of the wireless handset of non-emergency services.

20 4. The method according to claim 3 further comprising the steps of storing in a network database the prior location in a record associated with the wireless handset, and comparing the prior location with the current location.

25 5. The method according to claim 3 further comprising the steps of determining whether the current non-emergency telephone number corresponding to the current location is different from the prior non-emergency telephone number corresponding to the prior location, and transmitting said message only if the current non-emergency telephone number differs from the prior non-emergency telephone number.